

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Amend the drawings as follows.

Delete Figure 3 submitted in the amendment filed September 7, 2004.

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to the amendment filed September 27, 2004 as containing new matter. The objected to subject matter has been canceled in an effort to expedite prosecution. Such cancellation should not be construed as acquiescence in the objection.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11-16, 18-19, 21-22, 24-29, 31-32, 14-35 and 37-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,678,883 to Berry et al. ("Berry"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,598,180 to Dryfoos et al. ("Dryfoos").

This application was filed after November 29, 1999 entitling this application to the benefits of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Applicants assert that the subject matter of this application and Berry and Dryfoos were, at the time of the invention of the subject matter of this application, owned by the same party or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same party, namely International Business Machines Corporation. Accordingly, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Berry and Dryfoos cannot be applied as prior art against this application.

The Office Action rejected claims 4, 17 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berry and Dryfoos as applied to claims 1, 14 and 27 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,949 to Bryan et al. ("Bryant").

Applicant traverses claims 4, 17, and 30 for at least the reasons given above as Berry and Dryfoos are not applicable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

The Office Action rejected claims 7, 20 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berry and Dryfoos as applied to claims 1, 14 and 27 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,121,501 to Baumgartner et al. ("Baumgartner").

Applicant traverses claims 7, 20, and 33 for at least the reasons given above as Berry and Dryfoos are not applicable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

The Office Action rejected claims 10, 23 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berry and Dryfoos as applied to claims 1, 14 and 27 above, and further in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA").

Applicant traverses claims 10, 23, and 36 for at least the reasons given above as Berry and Dryfoos are not applicable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

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For all the reasons advanced above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner is cordially requested to telephone, if the Examiner believes that it would be advantageous to the disposition of this case.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment, which may be required for this amendment, to Deposit Account No. 09-0463. In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in any petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 09-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

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